

THINGS NOT INTENDED!

I believe there are things authorized of God, when taken to the extreme we have some things practiced that would be “**unapproved;**” or, would be in the area of being **unacceptable** to God. The first thing that comes to mind would be the question of **eating meet** sacrificed to idols. It was right for a person to eat or not to eat – either was acceptable to the Lord. Then when it was taken too far and violated a brother's conscience, one is not to practice that, it would destroy your brother, Rom. 14; I Cor. 8. So sometimes there can be that which is right; that is taken, and it then becomes **improper**.

Through the years we have argued the right of a **building** in which to meet and worship. When we establish the right of a building we establish the right of the things that are **necessary**, in the building – bathrooms, water fountain, baptistery, and dressing room for the baptistery, towels, mirror, comb, nursery etc. Thus to those who would state we have no authority for such we respond, “Yes, we do have authority for what is **needed**.” But there are those who have taken advantage of what is authorized!

I lived at a place in which there were certain members who enjoyed fishing. One day I went to the building to inspect the water in the baptistery and found minnows in the **baptistery water!** I just do not believe such was intended for minnows, left over from fishing!

I have seen the **nurseries** abused. The intended purpose of the nursery was in case there was a **need** the parent could take the infant; or, the child to the nursery, take care of the need and return to the assembly. This way the parent has a right to worship and the child is taught concerning worship. It has never been intended for the nursery to be a play room, nor was it intended for some to take care of the nursery and they, the one attending the nursery, miss the services of the Lord – this becomes an abuse of what was intended when the nursery was included in the building.

The restrooms were installed for the purpose of taking care of certain human needs; yet as was practiced in one place, there would be those who would go into the **restroom** and smoke. The time I am thinking of, the local preacher put up a sign that said, “*No smoking in restrooms.*” There were those who became offended. The design of the restrooms was not for smoking.

It is not uncommon for many today to say we need to **sing** the best that we can and a lot of effort is put in this direction. It makes me wonder if the early Christians were in favor with God when they just chanted their songs! Could it be that we have reached the stage we feel what we do is better than what they did?

During the Lord's Supper, there are many places where music is piped into the assembly, for the purpose of making the supper more meaningful! Is this what they did in the first century and was the services of the early church meaningful? Could it be that we have pushed things just a little too far and are demanding more than was intended?

Caa

Carl Adon Allen
1115 E. Houston Ave.
Crockett, Tx. 75835
(936) 544-3614